

MINUTES

Seattle Human Rights Commission Meeting

Thursday, December 2, 2010, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

City Hall Boards and Commissions Room

Commissioners Present: Jessica Andrade, Jesse Aspuria, Damien Carter, Andrew Lewis, Joshua Marshall, Merri Ann Osborne, Mike Peters, Roslyn Solomon, Christopher Stearns, Keith Toussaint, Jennifer Yogi

Commissioners Regrets: Nika Dahlbacka, Mica Powers

Commissioners by Phone: Marty Penner

SOCR Staff Present: Julie Nelson, Felicia Yearwood

Guest Speakers: Jennifer Shaw, Rosa Melendez

Call to Order: Call to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: November 2010 minutes approved as read

Guest Speakers: Jennifer Shaw, ACLU
Rosa Melendez, Department of Justice

- Ms. Melendez distributed informational material regarding the U. S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service (CRS), which serves as a third party neutral to resolve conflict in high profile cases. If issues cannot be proven as civil rights violations, the CRS can act based on perceptions to resolve the matter.
- The ACLU is preparing a letter to ask the Department of Justice to investigate the Seattle Police Department and determine whether there exists a pattern or practice of violating the civil liberties of people of the City.
- The SHRC is asked to
 - consider writing a letter supporting the ACLU's request,
 - participate in community meetings, particularly the demographic advisory council meetings, and
 - educate the public regarding the outcome of the January 10th inquest

SOCR report

- In recent weeks, SPD Command staff has engaged in RSJI training, a necessary complement to Perspectives in Profiling, which focuses at the individual level.

Arrest and Conviction Records Forum

- The Forum was well attended with solid support from community organizations
- Chief Sanford made positive comments
- Chris Stearns distributed the power point presentation that was used at the forum
- Julie Nelson has follow up meetings with landlord organizations

MOTION: To refer the issue to the Human Rights Task Force. **Action: PASSED**

SHRC Business / Committee Reports

- Police Accountability: Currently needs a chair. Roslyn Solomon and Andrew Lewis are serving as acting chairs.
- Bylaws: Jessica Andrade, Roslyn Solomon, Merri Ann Osborne, and Felicia Yearwood to review.
- Nominating: Deadline for applications: mid-January. Damien Carter and Jennifer Yogi to review resumes; Damien Carter and Joshua Marshall to conduct interviews

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.